

ABORTION, INFANTICIDE, KILLING THE OLD 317

decided to kill it.¹ In British New Guinea there is more or less infanticide, the father strangling the infant at birth to avoid care and trouble. Daughters are preserved by preference because of the bride price which the father will get for them.² On Nukuoro the civil ruler decides long before a birth whether the child is to be allowed to live or not. If the decision is adverse, it is smothered at birth.³ On the Banks Islands girls are preferred, because the people have the mother family, and because of the marriageable value of girls.⁴ On the Murray Islands in Torres Straits all children beyond a prescribed number are put to death, "lest the food supply should become insufficient." » If the children were all of one sex, some were destroyed from shame, it being held proper to have an equal number of boys and girls.⁵ On some islands of the Solomon group infanticide is not practiced, except in cases of illegitimate births. On others the coast people kill their own children and buy grown-up children from the bush people of the interior, that being an easier way to get them.⁶ There is no infanticide on Samoa. The unmarried employ abortion.⁷ Throughout Polynesia infanticide was prevalent for social selection, all of mixed blood or caste being put to death. Only two boys in a family were allowed to live, but any number of girls.⁸ In Tahiti they killed girls, who were of no use for war, service of the god, fishing, or navigation.⁹ The Malagassans on Madagascar kill all children who are born on unlucky days.¹⁰

325. The women of the Pirna (Arizona) practice infanticide, because, if their husbands die, they will be poor and will have to provide by their own exertions for such children as they have.¹¹ All Hyperboreans practice infanticide on account of the difficulty of the food supply.¹²

326, The Bondei of West Africa strangle an infant at birth if any of the numerous portents and omens for which they watch are unfavorable. An infant is also killed if its upper teeth come first.¹³ Until very recently it was customary in parts of Ahanta for the tenth child born of the same mother to be buried alive.¹⁴ In Kabre (Togo) there is a large population and little food. The people often sell their own children, or kidnap others, which they sell in order to provide for their own.¹⁵ The Vadshagga put to death illegitimate children and those whose upper

incisors come first
 The latter, if allowed to live, would be parricides.¹⁶ On
 the Zanzibar
 coast weak and deformed children are exposed. The
 Catholic mission

¹ Abel, *New Guinea*, 43.

⁶ JAI, XVII, 93.

² Krieger, *New-Guinea* ^ 292.

⁷ *Austr. Assoc. Adv. Set.*, 1892, 621.

⁸ Kubary, *Nukuoro*, 35.
Anthrop., V, 139.

⁸ Waitz,

⁴ Codrington, *Melanesians*, 229. ⁹ Ratzel, *Volkerkunde*, II, 126.

* JAI, XXVIII, n.

¹⁰ Waitz, *Anthrop.*, II, 441.

¹¹ *Smithson. Rep.*, 1871, 407; quoted, *Bur. Eth.*, I, 99.

» Ratzel, II, 769; *Bur. Eth.*, XVIII, 289.

» PSM, L, 100.

* *Globus*, LXXXIII,

314.

¹⁴ Ellis, *Tshi-speaking Peoples*, 234.
Kilimandscharo, 252.

¹⁶ Volkens,